

P21475.A01



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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Kazumasa AYUKAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3682

Appln. No. : 09/961,365

Examiner:

Filed : September 25, 2001

For : THIN AUTOTENSIONER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED
DEC 28 2001
GROUP 3600

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following document to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 4,723,934 to THOMEY, which issued on February 9, 1988.

Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner consider and cite the patent document. A copy of the above-noted document is attached and has been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate space on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of this document.

Applicants also brings to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/725,073 to AYUKAWA, entitled "Autotensioner", which was filed on November 29, 2000.

P21475.A01

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto. However, the Examiner is requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Kazumasa A YUKAWA et al.

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December 26, 2001
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